

12 July 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger  
Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Message from Mulla Mustafa Barzani

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"Dear Dr. Kissinger, the Secretary of State of the  
United States of America,

"While the hope of having a real peace in the Middle East and in the whole world is fortunately increasing, and while your country, and you as a person, has had a remarkable role in materializing this hope, the war of annihilation against our Kurdish people in Iran is being intensified and our civilian population is being exterminated by the most modern Russian aircraft, tanks, and artillery, which also burn our agriculture and houses, and exterminate our cattle, thus seriously tightening the economic blockade against us.

"The Iraqi regime, which is run by the Ba'th and Communists, cannot wage, or continue to escalate such a war without the approval and support of the Russians and their satellites. This full support encourages the Iraqis not only in this aspect, but also to engage in subversive activities in the Persian Gulf and in all the area. This Russian support also encourages the Iraqis to identify themselves frankly as being against your policy, your allies, and also your peace efforts in the Middle East. We are determined to defend our existence and rights in Iraq as a people and to sacrifice in this barbaric just

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struggle which is in reality that of the Iraqi people against this barbaric regime. The great assistance of Iran, your country, and also of other friends has been most useful in maintaining our resistance to this aggression, but the fact is that Baghdad, supported by the Russians, is quite superior to us in every way, and that our people are suffering from real genocide. Hunger is threatening thousands of lives, especially in areas neighboring the borders of Turkey which has closed its borders at the request of the Iraqis. We are, therefore, obliged to appeal to your country once again to study as quickly as possible our critical situation and to help our people who are ready to commit themselves to the policy of your country and who are really helping themselves. We appeal to you to do whatever you can to help us in every way possible.

"We think that in addition to such help being a big humanitarian step, it falls within the framework of your policy in this area, goes with the principles on which the great American nation was built, and also with the Nixon doctrine which says 'we help those who help themselves.'

"Please accept Mr. Secretary my deep respects and appreciation along with my congratulations on the occasion of your day of independence.

"Mustafa Barzani 7/7/1974"

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